



Washington State Department of Agriculture *News Release*

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No Asian gypsy moths found in WSDA summer trapping program

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announced today (Nov. 13) that none of the 17 gypsy moths caught during the annual summer trapping program were Asian gypsy moths.

Genetic analysis conducted at a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory in Massachusetts revealed all moths caught last summer were European gypsy moths. WSDA received lab results Nov. 6.

State officials were relieved at the news. The Asian variety is a much greater threat to Washington state than European gypsy moth because it eats evergreen as well as deciduous trees, and its female can fly. This means that Asian infestations can spread much more quickly and further, and they are much more difficult to pinpoint.

WSDA plans more intensive trapping next summer in areas where European gypsy moths were caught.

For more information on the gypsy moth program, call WSDA's toll-free hotline (1-800-443-6684) or visit the department's Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/default.htm>.

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